

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
FAIRFIELD COUNTY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 25, 2021**

Present: Moses Bell, Shirley Greene, Cornelius Robinson, Mikel Trapp, Timothy Roseborough, Clarence Gilbert, Douglas Pauley (Council Members); Brad Caulder, Interim Director, Charles Boykin, County Attorney.

Absent: None

In accordance with the South Carolina Code of Laws, 1976, Section 30-4-80 (e), as amended, the following persons and/or organizations have been notified of the time, date and location of this meeting: The Independent Voice of Blythewood and Fairfield, The Country Chronicle and one hundred forty two other individuals.

Due to COVID-19 (Coronavirus), the meeting is being live-streamed through the County's YouTube page in order to keep citizens informed.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Councilwoman Greene, seconded by Councilman Roseborough, to approve the agenda. ***The motion carried 6-0.*** Mr. Bell announced that Mr. Trapp would be a few minutes late.

3. INVOCATION

Vice Chair Greene led the invocation.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion made by Councilman Roseborough, seconded by Vice Chair Greene to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting of September 27, 2021. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

5. PUBLIC PRESENTATIONS

None.

6. 1ST PUBLIC COMMENT (3 MINUTES): INPUT MUST PERTAIN TO ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, FOR WHICH NO PUBLIC HEARING IS REQUIRED OR HAS BEEN SCHEDULED. THE TOTAL TIME ALLOCATED TO THIS PUBLIC COMMENT SEGMENT IS 30 MINUTES.

- Khalid Lake

- Chris Hill – Ordinance 778
- Randy Bright
- Jeff Schaffer

Mr. Bell asked Attorney Boykin if he could exercise a point of order to make comments. Mr. Boykin stated it was the prerogative of the Chair to say point of order. There could be an objection – the objection must be either sustained by folk voting in favor of it or it could be overturned by folk voting no. The Chair has the prerogative to call it subject to an objection – subject to a vote. Mr. Bell stated just for the record, last year, Ms. Bertha Goins suggested that we give the essential workers, to include fire (no fire was left out), EMS, Sheriff Department and everyone, a bonus pay. Members from Saving Fairfield got involved and it did not get to the agenda. The person (I do not want to call their name) but I want to verify with Mr. Robinson that that is what happened. The very same people that are talking about you getting paid today are the very ones that denied you pay from the Cares Act. That is what you need to know - Saving Fairfield.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Jennifer Fitch
- Randy Bright x 2
- Jeff Schaffer

8. ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORDERS

- A.** Third and Final Reading Ordinance No. 779: An Ordinance to Make Supplemental Appropriations from the Fund Balance to Purchase Compactor Receivers for the Mack and Ridgeway Recycling Sites. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Vice Chair Greene. Mr. Bell asked if Mr. Caulder had some information pertaining to the subject. Mr. Caulder stated that as many have seen at the Mack and Ridgeway sites where you throw the trash over the concrete wall, the boxes that the trash goes into and is compacted in to, all three of these boxes that we are replacing are original boxes that were purchased for each site. They are worn out. We had contractors look at repairing them but it was about \$8,500/box to do welding and repairs so we elected to ask for three new ones. ***The motion carried 7-0.***
- B.** Second Reading Ordinance No. 778: An Ordinance to Appropriate Funds Received by Fairfield County from the American Rescue Plan. Motion was made by Councilman Trapp, seconded by Councilman Roseborough. Mr. Pauley stated since this "B" doesn't describe in detail

the exact funding, Mr. Caulder can you give us the total amount of money that was received from the ARP fund. Mr. Caulder stated we will receive it in two separate allotments. He thought this allotment was a little less than \$2.2 million. Mr. Pauley asked if it was close to \$2.2 million and Mr. Caulder agreed. Mr. Pauley asked if he could break down how many full time and so forth employees we're talking about. Mr. Caulder stated included in that amount is 284 full time, 4 part time and 396 temporary employees. Mr. Pauley asked who was included in the temporary employee category. Mr. Caulder answered the majority came from Solid Waste, the Voter's Registration office, poll workers, and the volunteer Fire Department. We have 48 from Solid Waste, 124 from Public Works, and 156 from volunteer fire. EMS is the next largest at 18. Mr. Pauley verified the number of poll workers at about 124 (Mr. Caulder agreed) and he asked how many elections were held during COVID. Mr. Caulder stated he believed just one (he could not remember if the Town had an election that we paid for). Mr. Pauley asked if they came out one day (Mr. Caulder agreed) and Mr. Pauley asked if we were going to pay them hazard pay. Mr. Caulder said that was included. Mr. Pauley asked if Council members were considered full time or part time. Mr. Caulder stated full time and Mr. Pauley asked if Council members were included in the \$1,200. Mr. Caulder answered yes sir. Mr. Pauley stated Council members come up here twice a month for maybe an hour at a time. We had an emergency order in place where citizens were not allowed in the building but Council members will receive \$1,200. Mr. Caulder stated they were included. Mr. Pauley asked who was responsible for drafting this ordinance and putting all of this stuff together. Mr. Caulder stated Administration's role was to provide numbers. Mr. Pauley stated from day one, this Administration has lacked a lot of things but definitely lacks vision and priorities. During the budget when we started discussing this rescue money, Mr. Caulder and Ms. Bass on numerous occasions, urged Administration to have workshops so all of Council could be involved in distributing the money. Mr. Bell has not called myself, Mr. Gilbert or Mr. Robinson. This shows that Mr. Bell does whatever he wants, when he wants and does not want to listen to anyone. This ordinance does not address what is really important. During this pandemic, not one Fairfield County employee was terminated. All Fairfield County employees received pay and a lot were able to work from home. All County employees are important but the essential workers who had to be out during the pandemic should be compensated more. Giving every employee is simply not fair. I am ok with giving every employee something but the essentials should receive a lot more. I guess

\$500,000 on recreation is more important than those who are busting their tails for this County every single day. These men and women deserve more and we owe you all more. I make an amended motion that we reconsider the ARP funds and we give the essential workers that were out here fighting the fight during COVID more money. It was seconded by Councilman Gilbert. Mr. Bell stated that some of the people up here are showboating. We had an opportunity from the CARES Act to provide money to all of the essential workers. You did not hear anything from Council. We wrote letters to ensure we included fire. We could have given them money and then be reimbursed and we chose not to do it. As a matter of fact, do any of you remember it coming to the agenda? You don't do you? Let me tell you why. There were people who got involved and said not to give you all anything – nothing. We wanted to make sure our County employees received something. Here was an opportunity for us to be able to give the County employees a bonus type pay through the Rescue Plan's ARP money and we looked at it very closely. We have been talking about how we could do this for quite some time. County employees this year, because of the budget constraints – because there was no money in fund balance to do anything with – we had to cut the budget. When we cut the budget, we could not afford to give the County employees a raise so here is an opportunity for us to be able to do that. We took an average of \$40,000/per employee and took 3% of that. Three times the \$40,000 is \$1,200. When we looked at that, fire was not included and they answer calls too so we gave them some money also. That is how we derived at it and it was done so that it addressed the needs of all the County employees. The opportunity to give to essential employees was during the CARES Act. Mr. Pauley stated he wanted to straighten that up. The reason the CARES Act was voted down was because at that time Mr. Bell wanted to do the same thing he is doing now and give money to every single employee and we voted it down. He didn't want to give to just essential workers. It didn't go any further. Mr. Bell stated you didn't vote anything down. As Mr. Pauley continued to speak, he stated there was an amended motion on the floor. Let's do a vote and see who cares about these workers today and see if we want to give them more money. The audience began clapping and Mr. Bell stated they could clap although that is not normally permitted. He said pull the minutes and see where it came to the agenda. Mr. Pauley said ask Mr. Bell if he was going to give up his \$1,200 and distribute it among all of you all. I'll give mine up. Don't give me any money. I don't want it. Give it to the employees. Mr. Gilbert stated this is what you get when you don't include the full

board in making major decisions. It is really a slap in the face for all of these employees that they want to give you the same thing that everybody else is getting. A couple of weeks ago when we were in our other meeting, Mr. Bell kept ranting and raving about how in 2017 we had \$21 million and now we have \$10 million. Did he forget that at the beginning of our budget session this year we had \$19 million in our budget? What happened with that? The right thing to do is to treat these people the way – they said it. They put their lives – some of these people out here got COVID while they were working for us - my hats off to you guys. I really do appreciate you and I don't think it's fair. I really don't think it is fair the way you all are being treated. We can spend money on mini parks and things like that and we have so many other essential needs that we have in this County. It's got to stop. We say we need to do better with spending money but yet and still, we do it loosely. It's got to stop. With the full board – every one of us represents a district and it's not fair that the three of us (pointing to Mr. Pauley and Mr. Robinson) are never included in decision making. When we find out about certain things, a lot of times, it is right here in this meeting. But it's easy to blame somebody else. Every time you point your finger, you have three pointing back at you. Mr. Trapp stated the biggest slap in the face is, like Mr. Pauley said about the CARES Act money that we could have given to the essential workers, Mr. Pauley and Mr. Gilbert would normally vote with the 5-2 majority, would not even allow it to come to the agenda. So that is the slap in the face to the ones of you who are clapping along with them now. They didn't want you to have anything then. Mr. Gilbert asked – we did what now? Mr. Trapp responded you voted 5-2 with the majority and you didn't even allow the CARES Act to come to the agenda to give them money – last year. You forgot that? That is a slap in the face. They can snow you all they want. Mr. Pauley said they want to talk about two years ago but ask them what they are going to do now. Mr. Trapp said we wanted to fund you all with money. Mr. Bell stated they had an opportunity and Mr. Trapp agreed. Mr. Pauley stated if you ask Mr. Trapp when he is going to care about you, he's going to say the first of never. Mr. Trapp stated this is the same one from last year that did not want to give you all anything – not even a raise. Mr. Pauley said there is an amended motion on the floor. Mr. Bell stated again, go back and look at the minutes. Go back and look at all the agendas and tell me if it was ever included on an agenda. Mr. Trapp stated it wasn't allowed. Mr. Pauley asked do you all care about two years ago or do you all care about now? Ok, thank you. Mr. Bell said ok, you can say that. Mr. Robinson asked for the proposed total

amount to give to the essential workers – do we have that? Mr. Bell asked now and Mr. Robinson answered yes sir. Mr. Bell said \$1,200. Mr. Robinson asked for the total proposed. Mr. Bell answered \$460,000. Mr. Robinson asked if we were getting \$2.2 million and Mr. Bell responded \$2.137 million. Mr. Bell stated there was a motion was on the floor. Mr. Pauley asked if the vote could be done by a show of hands and Mr. Bell agreed. By a show of hands, those in favor of the amended motion were Councilmen Gilbert, Pauley and Robinson. By a show of hands, those not in favor of the amended motion were Councilwoman Greene and Councilmen Roseborough, Trapp and Bell. ***The motion failed 4-3.*** As those in attendance began to leave the Chamber, Mr. Pauley asked everybody to stand up for a minute. He stated you all just got slapped in the face by this Administration. Mr. Bell stated the amended motion did not pass so the original motion was on the floor. Mr. Robinson stated he thought they should reconsider or look at it again before we vote. It was just his opinion. ***The motion carried 4-3.***

9. BOARD AND COMMISSION MINUTES

Disabilities & Special Needs Board
August 20, 2021 & September 17, 2021

10. BOARD AND COMMISSION APPOINTMENTS

11. OLD BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

None.

13. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Veteran's Affairs Employee Award – Mr. Caulder stated he wanted to take a few minutes and recognize the Fairfield County Veteran's Affairs Office. We have had some turnover in that department and it has been a bit unstable. He wanted to let Council know the achievements that have been made in that department lately. He stated Ms. Albertha Woodard was the new Director of Veteran's Affairs. She started in the position on July 12th and on July 23rd she became an accredited representative for the South Carolina Department of Veteran's Affairs. On August 3rd, she became an accredited representative of the American Legion and on August 26th she received her personal identity verification card under Homeland Security and that is required for them to be able to fully do their job and serve the

veterans. In the fall of 2021, Ms. Woodard and Ms. Peggy Frick, who is the assistant Veteran's Service Officer, became members of the South Carolina Association of Veteran's Affairs Officers. The purpose of this association is to assist Veteran's Affairs Officers in the State in becoming more effective in performing their duties by studying, discussing and recommending improvements in Veteran's Affairs. They investigate and provide a means of the exchange of ideas and experience between County Veteran's Affairs Officers. This association is dedicated to educating, empowering and representing the South Carolina veteran advocates. It services all 46 counties. Because of her accomplishments, Ms. Peggy Frick was named member of the year. She received an award that states your commitment to mission accomplishment is absolutely remarkable. Even in the absence of CVAO (Director) your dedication to your veterans have been amazing. We thank Peggy Frick for her hard work and commitment to the office and care of our veterans. She has been working in the office since 2017 and continues to do an exceptional job. We are very proud of her accomplishments and also Ms. Woodard. Their client interaction have doubled since July and they had 15 new clients in September. They also recently received a letter of appreciation from Senator Tim Scott's office. Mr. Bell asked if he would read the letter. Mr. Caulder agreed and read – my staff have informed me of the outstanding work you do to assist our South Carolina veterans and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your public service. You serve as an invaluable resource in support of our joint constituencies and we are most appreciative of your dedication and professionalism. Your efforts serve as an example for all those who meet you each day. Please remember that our office is always available if we can be of any assistance. Mr. Caulder asked Ms. Woodard if she would like to speak. She stated it was a pleasure doing this job and she loved what she did. As a veteran herself, she knew the trials and struggles to get benefits and to make sure the veterans are taken care of. Not just in this County but we have a lot of veterans come from all over and she applauds everything that they do. Ms. Peggy is phenomenal and she has taught me a lot. She wants to make sure they continue to do a great job. She stated she was not going anywhere so there won't be a turnover in that department. She loved what she does and she will continue to do what she could for the veterans. She thanked Annie McDaniels and Senator Mike Fanning for choosing her. This job is a God-given talent and it is my ministry to make sure that everyone is taken of. If you are a veteran, surviving spouses – we are going to do our best to take care of you. Thank you. Mr. Bell asked for a picture with Ms. Woodard and the delegation staff – photo was taken.

14. CLERK TO COUNCIL'S REPORT

None.

15. COUNTY COUNCIL TIME

Robinson: Mr. Robinson state he felt enough had been said.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (The following statement is provided in compliance with the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act: Subsequent to Executive Session, Council may take action on matters discussed in Executive Session.)

At 6:50 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to go into executive session concerning the below listed items. ***The motion carried unanimously 7-0.***

- A.** Personnel Matter – Regarding County Administrator Search Update Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §30-4-70(1).

At 7:33 p.m., motion made by Council Member Trapp, seconded by Councilwoman Greene, to come out of executive session and return to regular session. Mr. Bell stated no action was taken in Executive Session. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

16. ADJOURN

At 7:33 p.m., it was moved by Council Member Greene, seconded by Council Member Roseborough, to adjourn. ***The motion carried 7-0.***

KIM W. ROBERTS
CLERK TO COUNCIL

MOSES BELL
CHAIRMAN